



**SEMINOLE COUNTY, FL  
COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**RECOMMENDED CANDIDATES**

**May 2023**

**SEMINOLE COUNTY, FL  
COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**RECOMMENDED CANDIDATES**

**GROUP I**

**Aleksandr Boksner**

Deputy County Attorney, Sarasota County, Sarasota, FL

**Katherine Latorre**

Senior Assistant County Attorney, Orange County Government, Orlando, FL

**David Margolis**

City Attorney, City of Clearwater, FL

**Diego “Woody” Rodriguez**

General Counsel, Central Florida Expressway Authority, Orlando, FL

**GROUP II**

**Joy Carmichael**

Assistant County Attorney, Orange County Board of County Commissioners, FL

**Jennifer Cockcroft**

Attorney, Lacey Lyons Rezanka, Melbourne, FL

**INTERNAL**

**Desmond Morrell**

Senior Assistant County Attorney, Seminole County Attorney’s Office, Sanford, FL

**David Shields**

Deputy County Attorney, Seminole County Attorney’s Office, Sanford, FL

## **ALEKSANDR BOKSNER**

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7749 Paddock Place, Davie, FL 33328, Phone (305) 216-6258

Email Toledo1998@aol.com

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

2022 - present	<b>Sarasota County</b> , Sarasota, FL Deputy County Attorney
2022 - 2022	<b>Torcivia, Donlon, Goddeau &amp; Rubin, P.A.</b> , West Palm Beach, FL Senior Associate Attorney
2009 - 2022	<b>The City of Miami Beach</b> , FL Chief Deputy City Attorney and General Counsel
2008 - 2009	<b>Marion County</b> , Ocala, FL Chief Assistant County Attorney
2005 - 2008	<b>Charlotte County</b> , Port Charlotte, FL Chief Litigation Attorney
2004 - 2005	<b>NRT, Inc.</b> , Weston, FL Associate Counsel
2001 - 2004	<b>Office of the State Attorney</b> , Miami, FL Assistant State Attorney

### **EDUCATION**

2001	J.D., University of Toledo College of Law, Toledo, OH
1998	B.A., University of Cincinnati, OH

**SUMMARY OF PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE AND STRENGTHS**

- Twenty two years of extensive experience in advising on, operations, regulatory compliance, policies, procedures, financing and administrative guidance on government business practices, including legal management of regulatory departments, principles of civil, constitutional and administrative law, preparation of resolutions and ordinances, liaison with corporate vendors, contractors, citizens and external agencies on sensitive and controversial issues, and formation of cost-effective and goal-oriented legal compliance with emerging legal disputes (contractual and statutory).
- Strong government counsel orientation with extensive experience advising elected officials, government departments and the Office of the Inspector General on all aspects of governmental compliance and investigation, litigation (commercial, land use, construction, tort and appellate), sovereign immunity, employee relations, legislative process and procedure, contract formation and drafting, governmental procurement and purchasing (traditional procurement and Job Order Contracting), and various aspects of public/private development agreements, including modifications, operability studies and fiscal challenges, and in connection with these entities day-to-day business activities, interaction with vendors, contractors, federal and state entities and officials.
- Strong senior counsel with substantial experience in advising, and working with, elected officials (and government administration) and private business colleagues on various public/private governmental contracts and legal issues, risks, preferred outcomes and strategies.
- Strong substantive knowledge and analytical skills, with excellent judgment and ability to quickly and effectively identify, assess, communicate and resolve legal and, as appropriate, business issues as necessitated by municipal policy requirements, objectives and the law.
- Excellent interpersonal, communication (written and verbal), negotiating and drafting skills.
- Apply critical thinking to issues, demonstrating resourceful, pragmatic and creative approach to issue solving and addressing governmental entity and municipal-related policy objectives.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Sarasota County, Florida, a political subdivision of the State of Florida**

*Deputy County Attorney, Sarasota, Florida* 2022 to Present

**Torcivia, Donlon, Goddeau & Rubin, P.A.**

*Senior Associate Attorney, West Palm Beach, Florida* 2022 to 2022

**The City of Miami Beach, a municipal corporation**

*Chief Deputy City Attorney and General Counsel, Miami Beach, Florida* 2009 to 2022

**Marion County, Florida, a political subdivision of the State of Florida**

*Chief Assistant County Attorney, Ocala, Florida* 2008 to 2009

**Charlotte County, Florida, a political subdivision of the State of Florida**

*Chief Litigation Attorney, Port Charlotte, Florida* 2005 to 2008

**NRT, Inc.**

*Associate Counsel, Weston, Florida* 2004 to 2005

**Office of the State Attorney, Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida**

*Assistant State Attorney, Miami, Florida* 2001 to 2004

**BAR ADMISSION AND EDUCATION**

**Bar Admission:** Florida, 2001 and Tennessee, 2008

**University of Toledo College of Law, Toledo, Ohio**

Juris Doctor, 2001

**University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio**

Bachelor of Arts, 1998

## **LANGUAGES**

English and Russian

## **DESCRIPTION OF EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE**

### ***Government Counsel***

Extensive experience representing, advising, and rendering legal opinions to elected officials, managers/administers, boards, commissions, and other staff on all aspects of governmental business operations and governance, operations and policy initiatives, and other aspects of their regulatory compliance, business function, labor and employment, and litigation. Advised governmental entities in connection with their day-to-day activities and contractual relationships and obligations, including aspects pertaining to vendors, citizens, suppliers, contractors and employees, and reviewing and preparing agreements relating to such matters, including project specific agreements, Job Order Contracting, land use licensing and permitting, memorandums of understanding, mutual aid and cooperation assistance agreements and consent agreements. Experience in analyzing pending and proposed legislative (federal and state) action impacting the administration, operation and functionality of the governmental corporations, and the investigation of complaints and claims involving all aspects of government departments, staff and programs. General Counsel to the City of Miami Beach Inspector General and Office of the Inspector General.

### ***Regulatory, Compliance and Litigation***

Extensive experience ensuring compliance with municipal, state and federal ordinances, statutes, regulations and codes, including, Florida Building Code, National Fire Prevention Code, Local Government Code Enforcement Boards Act, Drug-Free Workplace Act, Florida Public Records Act, Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act, False Claims statutes and ordinances (Federal, state and local), Florida Uniform Traffic Control Law, Florida Vessel Safety Law, Whistle-blower's Act, Clean Water Act, Criminal and Civil Justice Policy Council, Bank Secrecy Act, 31 U.S.C. Section 5311 – 5332, Florida Anti-Fencing Act, Florida Communications Fraud Act, Florida Money Laundering Act, Florida Mutual Aid Act, Bert J. Harris, Jr. Private Property Rights Protection Act and Florida Land Use and Environmental Dispute Resolution Act. Experience as Chief Litigation Counsel for lawsuits in federal and state courts representing public entities for violation of the United States Constitution and Florida Constitution, defense of various statutory and common law causes of action, including regulatory taking, inverse condemnation, eminent domain, 5th Amendment taking under §1983, covenants of good faith and fair dealing, doctrine of recoupment, termination of contractual agreements for convenience, littoral takings, public records law, and all other litigation matters impacting governmental business operations.

### ***Government Contracting***

Extensive experience representing governmental entities in collaborating, documenting and completing contractual agreements pursuant to the Florida Interlocal Cooperation Act of 1969, and those contractual agreements involving purchase and sale, architecture and engineering, Federal cost reimbursement, administrative services, indemnity and hold harmless, independent contractor, sponsorship agreements, utility franchise, Capital Improvement Project (CIP) design build, risk services, licensing, invitation to bid (ITB), request for qualification (RFQ), request for proposals (RFP), professional services, artist, revocable permits and easements, concessionaire, street scape and management. Extensive experience in negotiating and drafting agreements documenting these contractual agreements, including terms, conditions, modifications, amendments, demands, cure letters, notices of default, as well as those documents mandating indemnification and the assertion of a legal defense. As part of each contractual agreement, managing and coordinate the involvement of relevant staff and professional experts in those areas which directly impact the specific governmental operations and functions.

Aleksandr Boksner  
Toledo1998@aol.com  
305-216-6258

May 5, 2023

Ms. S. Renée Narloch, President  
Mr. Elliott Pervinich, Vice President  
S. Renée Narloch & Associates  
2910 Kerry Forest Pkwy D4-242  
Tallahassee, Florida 32309

RE: County Attorney Position – Seminole County, Florida

Dear Ms. Narloch/Mr. Pervinich:

Please accept this Letter of Interest and Resume regarding the County Attorney Position for Seminole County, Florida.

I am currently the Deputy County Attorney for Sarasota County, Florida, and provide legal counsel to the Sarasota County Commissioners, Sarasota County Sheriff, Sarasota County Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller, the County Administration and the various County Departments on legal matters or issues pertaining to Federal and state litigation, labor and employment or other legal matters that may impact the governmental functions of Sarasota County, Florida.

Equally important and before my employment with Sarasota County, I was the Chief Deputy City Attorney for the City of Miami Beach, Florida, and was responsible for overseeing and supervising the 23 employees of the Office of the City Attorney, the preparation of the Office's yearly budget, and various other management functions for the operation of the City Attorney's Office. Additionally, as the Chief Deputy City Attorney, I provided legal counsel to the Mayor and City Commissioners, the City Administration, and the various City Departments on a broad spectrum of legal issues impacting or involving the City of Miami Beach. More specifically, I was responsible for those matters that involved the City's federal and state litigation, governmental business operations in all respects, land use interpretation, drafting and litigation, statutory implementation, application and procedures, labor and employment, and many other numerous legal matters that directly or indirectly impacted the governmental functions of the City of Miami Beach.

In consideration of those unique qualifications that would be necessary for Seminole County's next County Attorney, my 22 years of legal knowledge representing Counties,

Cities and Towns, coupled with my extensive legal experience in local governmental law and those necessary skills that were obtained in the management of a high-intensity government legal office, would certainly make me the ideal candidate for this excellent position.

I look forward to discussing my qualifications in further detail and welcome the opportunity for an interview with the Seminole County Board of County Commissioners.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Aleksandr Boksner*

Aleksandr Boksner

# JOY CARMICHAEL

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Post Office Box 951247, Lake Mary, FL 32795, Phone (407) 619-5083

Email [jc.electronicmail@gmail.com](mailto:jc.electronicmail@gmail.com)

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- 2020 - present      **Orange County Board of County Commissioners, FL**  
Assistant County Attorney
- 2017 - 2020      **Highlands County Board of County Commissioners, Sebring, FL**  
County Attorney (2018-2020)  
Acting County Attorney (2017-2018)  
Assistant County Attorney (2017-2017)
- 1999 - 2018      **Joy Carmichael, Attorney at Law, Lake Mary, FL**  
Attorney (Solo Practice, Outside Counsel)
- 1993 - 1999      **Orange County Board of County Commissioners, FL**  
Assistant County Attorney

## **EDUCATION**

- 1992      J.D., University of Florida College of Law, Gainesville, FL
- 1989      B.A., Political Science, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL



# Joy Carmichael

## Attorney at Law

Post Office Box 951247  
Lake Mary, Florida 32795

407) 619-5083  
jc.electronicmail@gmail.com

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### ATTORNEY PROFILE

An attorney with significant local government experience as a County Attorney, Assistant County Attorney, and outside counsel.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Experienced in the broad range of responsibilities of a County Attorney
- Adept at advising government officials, members of advisory boards, and employees
- Proficient in drafting ordinances, resolutions, policies and procedures, and memoranda of law
- Excellent legal writer and thorough researcher

### SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Tourist Development Tax** - Guided a Tourist Development Tax Committee and Board of County Commissioners in the legal process for increasing and allotting additional “pennies” to increase tourist development tax revenues

**Land Use** – Advised a County Planning Division in a comprehensive revision of the County’s land development regulations

**Public Safety** – Guided a Board of County Commissioners in establishment of a countywide fire municipal service benefit unit that incorporated local municipalities

**Commercial real estate** – Assisted in communications with stakeholders to complete construction of a multi-million-dollar watershed impoundment structure for a county

**Litigation** – Successfully managed litigation involving bid protests, bond disputes, injunctions, and contract disputes pertaining to a construction project

### WORK EXPERIENCE

**ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY**, Dec. 2020 – Present

**Orange County Board of County Commissioners, Orange County, Florida**

**Areas of practice:** Local government law, including land use and federal matters

**Responsibilities:** --Serving as legal counsel to the Board of Zoning Adjustment and handling other land use matters such as gated communities, roadway agreements, and Title VI compliance  
--Drafting ordinances, administrative regulations, contracts, and handling other assigned matters

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**, Feb. 2018 – Jul. 2020, **ACTING COUNTY ATTORNEY**, Oct. 2017– Feb. 2018

**Highlands County Board of County Commissioners, Sebring, Florida**

**Areas of practice:** Local government law, including real estate, land use, ethics, and procurement

**Responsibilities:** --Served as internal legal counsel to the Board of County Commissioners

- Attended various meetings of the Board, including bi-weekly regular meetings, special meetings, and budget hearings
- Advised Board in “shade” meetings to discuss proposed settlement for pending litigation

- Drafted emergency resolutions and procured contract disaster relief services for local states of emergency involving two hurricanes and COVID-19
- Handled legal process for placing a question on the ballot for consideration by voters
- Drafted various ordinances, including ordinances to expand use of infrastructure surtax dollars
- Discretely provided legal counsel to individual Commissioners to resolve questions pertaining to ethics and voting matters
- Engaged outside counsel, provided oversight, and reviewed billing
- Guided the Board through the legal process and criteria for establishment and maintenance of numerous municipal service benefit units, including a fire district that including municipalities within the County
- Guided the Board through the legal aspects of a private activity bond issue
- Handled all responsibilities related to management of the County Attorney's Office
  - preparation and management of the office budget
  - hiring, training, and advising Office staff
- Advised and assisted County Administrator, department directors, managers, and other employees
- Advised the Supervisor of Elections in matters involving litigation, ballots, and an election recount
- Drafted ordinances, resolutions, administrative regulations, and personnel policies
- Reviewed contracts related to real estate, construction, and procurement matters
- Drafted pleadings, attending hearings, and represented the county in litigation
- Provided legal counsel in land use matters

**ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY, Jun. 2017 – Oct. 2017**

**Highlands County Board of County Commissioners, Sebring Florida**

**Areas of practice:** Local government law including real estate, land use, ethics, and procurement

**Responsibilities:** --Advised department directors, managers, and other employees  
 --Reviewed contracts related to real estate, construction, and procurement matters  
 --Drafted pleadings, attending hearings, and represented the county in litigation  
 --Provided legal counsel in land use matters, including zoning matters  
 --Provided legal guidance and oversight to the Economic Development Department, Planning and Zoning Commission and Board of Zoning and Adjustment  
 --Advised the Code Enforcement Department in handling code enforcement matters

**ATTORNEY (Solo Practice, Outside Counsel), Dec. 1999 to Feb. 2018**

**Joy Carmichael, Attorney at Law, Lake Mary, Florida**

**Areas of practice:** Contract law, Real property law, Local government law, Estate planning, Appellate law

**Responsibilities:** --Provided legal representation to clients in land use and code enforcement matters, including representation at public hearings  
 --Advised and represented small businesses and not-for-profit entities in contract, general corporate, and real property matters  
 --Researched and developed strategies for foreclosure defense matters  
 --Provided outside legal counsel to the governments of Orange County, Florida, and the City of Orlando, Florida  
 --Drafted appellate briefs  
 --Drafted, reviewed, and negotiated commercial leases and contracts

**ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY, Oct. 1993 to Dec. 1999**

**Orange County Board of County Commissioners, Orange County, Florida**

**Areas of practice:** Local government law, e.g., Ethics (local public officials), Contracts, Real Property

- Responsibilities:**
- Drafted ordinances, resolutions, administrative regulations, and personnel policies
  - Provided legal counsel for the sale, lease and purchase of real property
  - Reviewed purchasing agreements and provided legal counsel to the Purchasing Department
  - Handled real property and commercial litigation matters for the Real Estate Management Department, the Housing and Community Development Department, and the Health and Human Services Division
  - Advised not-for-profit and charitable entities in the provision of community services
  - Provided general legal counsel to division directors, managers and advisory boards
  - Attended employee grievance hearings and provided legal guidance and handled appeals
  - Conducted seminars and presentations to interpret laws for employees
  - Addressed various issues on behalf of the Public Works and Public Utilities Department including matters pertaining to construction, sewer capacity, letters of credit, and rights-of-way

## **EDUCATION**

**J. D. degree, May 1992,** University of Florida College of Law, Gainesville, Florida

**B. A. degree (Major: Political Science; Minor: Business), May 1989,** University of Central Florida, Orlando, Florida

## **PUBLISHED WORKS AND PRESENTATIONS**

Carmichael, J., *Annual Report of the Highlands County Attorney's Office (Fiscal Year 2018-2019)*

Carmichael, J., Presentation on Contract Management and Workflow to Highlands County employees, October 2018

Carmichael, J., (co-author) *Liens*, Florida Jurisprudence, Vol.34 (2014)

Carmichael, J., (co-author) *Cancellation, Rescission and Reformation of Contracts*, Florida Jurisprudence, Vol. 9 (2011)

Carmichael, J., *Estate Planning for Today and Tomorrow*, presentations for local churches (2009, 2014)

Carmichael, J., (co-author) *Trusts*, Florida Jurisprudence, Vol.55A (2005)

Carmichael, J., *Preemption of State or Local Law by Telecommunications Act of 1996* (47 U.S.C.A. §253), 195 A.L.R. Fed. 275 (2004)

Carmichael, J., *Annual Update on the Ethics and Gifts Laws for Local Government Officials and Employees*, an annual presentation provided to the Orange County Board of County Commissioners (1994 – 1996)

## **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE**

**Member of the following organizations:** The Florida Bar, 1992-Present; **Highlands County Bar Association**, 2019-2020; **Florida Association of County Attorneys (FACA)**, 2018-Present; **FACA Public Safety Committee**, 2019-2020; **Orange County Bar**, 2015 – 2016; **Member, Orange County Bar Elder Law Committee**, 2015 – 2016.

**Admitted to practice in the following courts:** The United States District Court (Middle District of Florida), 1993-Present; The United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, 1999-Present; The Supreme Court of the United States, 2000-Present.

**Member, State of Florida New Motor Vehicle Arbitration Board**, 1997-1999.

**Volunteer teacher, Junior Achievement**, 1993-1994.

**Chairperson, Academic Affairs Committee, Law Student Association**, 1991.

Joy Carmichael  
Post Office Box 951247  
Lake Mary, Florida 32795  
May 7, 2023

*VIA E-MAIL DELIVERY*

S. Renee Narloch, President  
**S. RENEE NARLOCH & ASSOCIATES**  
2910 Kerry Forest Parkway #D4-242  
Tallahassee, Florida 32309

**Re: Advertised position – Seminole County Attorney**

Dear Ms. Narloch:

Thank you for the invitation to apply for the position of Seminole County Attorney. As an almost lifelong resident of Seminole County, I was especially pleased to receive the invitation.

As indicated in my resume, I have enjoyed a comprehensive experience practicing in the area of local government law. My legal experience includes serving county governments internally as a County Attorney and as an Assistant County Attorney, and externally as outside counsel for a municipality and a county, while maintaining a small private practice.

Please review my resume to learn more about my legal experience in advising a Board of County Commissioners in matters involving litigation; resolution of construction disputes; increasing tourist development tax revenues; revising land development regulations; and other matters of county governance.

I am positive that my broad legal experience in local government law and my familiarity in handling the internal procedures of a County Attorney's Office will benefit Seminole County.

In addition, I am familiar with the leadership team that has led the Seminole County Attorney's Office during Bryant Applegate's service as Seminole County Attorney. Each of us spent a significant amount of time practicing in the Orange County Attorney's Office where the practice of law has consistently been managed with professionalism and diligence in a collegial environment. Therefore, I am confident that the Seminole County Attorney's Office also exhibits those qualities. To utilize my skills and experience to continue the work that Bryant has begun in the Seminole County Attorney's Office would be a privilege.

Following your review of my resume, I look forward to an opportunity to interview with the Seminole County Board of County Commissioners.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
*Joy Carmichael*  
Joy Carmichael

# JENNIFER COCKCROFT

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Phone (321) 624-6109

Email [jcockcroft@brighthouse.com](mailto:jcockcroft@brighthouse.com)

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 2022 - present | <b>Lacey Lyons Rezanka</b><br>Attorney  |
| 2022 - 2022    | <b>Block &amp; Scarpa, P.A.</b><br>Associate Counsel                                      |
| 2019 - 2022    | <b>City of Palm Bay, FL</b><br>Deputy City Attorney                                       |
| 2016 - 2019    | <b>Stenstrom, McIntosh, Colbert &amp; Whigham, P.A.</b><br>Of Counsel                     |
| 2004 - 2014    | <b>City of Kissimmee, FL</b><br>Assistant City Attorney                                   |
| 1998 - 2004    | <b>Fulton County District Attorney, Atlanta, GA</b><br>Senior Assistant District Attorney |

## **EDUCATION**

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 1997 | J.D., University of Florida College of Law, Gainesville, FL     |
| 1994 | B.A., Legal Studies, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL |

**JENNIFER D. COCKCROFT, ESQ., B.C.S.**  
Email: [jcockcroft@brighthouse.com](mailto:jcockcroft@brighthouse.com) Cell: (321) 624-6109

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## EDUCATION

University of Florida College of Law, Gainesville, FL Juris Doctor, Cum Laude	1997
University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL Bachelor of Arts in Legal Studies, Cum Laude	1994

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## LEGAL EXPERIENCE

<b><u>Lacey Lyons Rezanka</u></b>	<b>2022 - Date</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Land use and zoning representation for private clients on various property issues, including entitlement research, property acquisitions, variances, easements, and property disputes.</li><li>• Preparation of variety of documents for submittals to local jurisdictions including zoning map amendments, textual amendments.</li><li>• Legal research and analysis on property development matters.</li></ul>	
<b><u>Block &amp; Scarpa, PA., Associate Counsel</u></b>	<b>2022</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Municipal representation for Town of Indian River Shores as City Attorney.</li><li>• Contract counsel for City of Melbourne and City of Vero Beach, providing counsel on variety of municipal issues as needed.</li><li>• Land use and development representation for private clients on property issues, including entitlement research, property acquisitions, variances, easements, and property disputes.</li></ul>	
<b><u>City of Palm Bay, Florida; Deputy City Attorney</u></b>	<b>2019-2022</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In-house legal representation for a local municipal government.</li><li>• Day to day primary legal representation for all assigned City departments and others as needed.</li><li>• Serve as board counsel to citizen advisory boards and City Council, as assigned, providing legal advice on agenda matters prior to and during meetings as well as parliamentary procedure guidance and conducting quasi-judicial hearings.</li><li>• Conduct legal research, draft, review, and issue legal opinions on various documents and correspondence including but not limited to contracts, development agreements, bonds, leases, easements, deeds, municipal ordinances, municipal resolutions, policies, procedures, liens, title opinions, land plats, and agenda items.</li><li>• Conduct personnel investigations to conclusion.</li><li>• Provided legal guidance on labor matters as needed, including employees represented in variety of labor unions.</li></ul>	
<b><u>Stenstrom, McIntosh, Colbert &amp; Whigham, P.A.; Of Counsel</u></b>	<b>2016-2019</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Outside counsel legal representation of local municipal governments.</li><li>• Represented in the following capacities: City Attorney for Sanford, Oviedo, Daytona Beach Shores, Mount Dora and Webster, conflict counsel for City of Deland, backup Special Magistrate for Seminole County and Oviedo, and City of Kissimmee Code Enforcement Board attorney.</li></ul>	

- Handled day to day city legal needs as well as litigation of foreclosures, forfeitures, nuisance abatement and quiet title actions.
- Served as board counsel to citizen advisory boards and city council/commissions, provided legal advice on agenda matters prior to and during meetings as well as parliamentary procedure guidance and conducted quasi-judicial hearings.
- Legal research, draft, review, and issue legal opinions on various documents and correspondence including but not limited to contracts, development agreements, bonds, leases, easements, deeds, municipal ordinances, municipal resolutions, policies, procedures, liens, title opinions, land plats, and agenda items.

**City of Kissimmee, Florida; Assistant City Attorney**

**2004-2014**

- In-house legal representation of local municipal government.
- Served as board counsel to all citizen advisory boards and City Commission, providing legal advice on agenda matters prior to and during meetings as well as parliamentary procedure guidance and conducting quasi-judicial hearings, code enforcement hearings.
- Day to day primary legal representation for all City departments.
- Legal research, drafting, review and opinions on various legal documents and correspondence including but not limited to contracts, bonds, leases, easements, deeds, municipal ordinances, municipal resolutions, policies, procedures, RFP's/RFQ's, releases/indemnifications, land development agreements, liens, title opinions, MOU's, land plats, JPA's.
- Conducted personnel and police internal affairs investigations to conclusion.
- Represented the City in a variety of court proceedings and hearings, including replevin actions, civil citations, red light camera violation hearings (approximately 200 trials), unemployment compensation hearings, ordinance violation prosecutions, and civil forfeiture actions of seized property.
- Consulted on pension board bargaining and labor union (police/fire) collective bargaining.

**Fulton County District Attorney, Atlanta, Georgia; Senior Assistant District Attorney**

**1998-2004**

- Felony prosecution of all criminal offenses from information or indictment through trial.
- Prosecuted cases in multiple divisions: grand jury, juvenile trial unit, major narcotics unit, and felony trial unit.
- Tried approximately 60 cases (bench and jury).
- Supervised 20 employees.
- Trainer for all new assistant district attorneys.

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**PROFESSIONAL ADMISSIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS**

Florida Bar Member in Good Standing (2004)

Georgia Bar Member in Good Standing (1998)

Florida Bar Board Certified Specialist in City, County and Local Government Law (2018)

Florida Bar Local Government Section

Florida Municipal Attorneys Association

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**REFERENCES**

Available upon request.

**JENNIFER D. COCKCROFT, ESQ., B.C.S.**  
Email: [jcockcroft@brighthouse.com](mailto:jcockcroft@brighthouse.com) Cell: (321) 624-6109

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April 22, 2023

Seminole County Board of County Commissioners  
c/o S. Renee Narloch & Associates

Dear Ms. S. Renee Narloch,

Attached please find my resume for your review for the posted County Attorney position for the Seminole County, Florida. I hope that upon a review of my resume and credentials, will find that I have extensive experience in local government law and am an excellent candidate to be the next County Attorney for the Seminole County Board of County Commissioners.

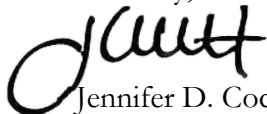
I have over twenty years legal experience, primarily within Florida local government agencies as in house counsel. I began my career in Georgia serving as a felony prosecutor in Atlanta for six years during which I gained valuable management and trial experience.

After relocation home to Florida, I began practicing local government law to increase the breadth of my legal career by entering local government practice. I have remained in local government and land use practice since that time. I am also a Board-Certified Specialist in the area of City, County, and Local Government Law by the Florida Bar since 2018.

I believe I possess the requisite knowledge of local government agency operations and the legal needs of such agencies to fulfill the position which you have posted and will give my resume due consideration. I believe that I am duly suited and highly qualified to meet the needs of the County Commission of Seminole County, its Staff and its citizens.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Cockcroft', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

Jennifer D. Cockcroft, Esq., B.C.S.



## KATHERINE LATORRE

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Winter Springs, FL, Phone (407) 415-5829

Email klatorre76@gmail.com

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 2014 - present | <b>Orange County Government</b> , Orlando, FL<br>Senior Assistant County Attorney (2021-present)<br>Assistant County Attorney (2014-2021) |
| 2003 - 2014    | <b>Brown, Garganese, Weiss &amp; D'Agresta, P.A.</b> , Orlando, FL<br>Senior Attorney   |
| 2002 - 2003    | <b>State of Florida, Third District Court of Appeal</b> , Miami, FL<br>Law Clerk to Honorable Melvia B. Green (retired)                   |

### **EDUCATION**

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 2002 | J.D., Florida State University College of Law, Tallahassee, FL      |
| 1999 | B.A., English & Business, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL |

# Katherine Latorre

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Winter Springs, Florida · klatorre76@gmail.com · (407) 415-5829

Florida Bar, *admitted 2002*

Florida Bar Board Certified Specialist in City, County & Local Government Law, 2008 – Present

Florida Bar City, County, & Local Government Law Certification Committee, 2015-2021

*(Committee Chair, 2019-2020)*

## **Experience**

### **Orange County Government**

*Senior Assistant County Attorney*

*Assistant County Attorney*

### **Orlando, Florida**

August 2021 – Present

March 2014 – August 2021

- Manage and supervise team of assistant county attorneys and paralegals in the handling of a variety of legal matters for the general/administrative law section of the County Attorney's Office
- Responsible for the intake, assignment, and work product on legal matters for the County's Real Estate Management, Parks & Recreation, Capital Projects, Procurement, Corrections, Youth & Family Services, Fiscal & Business Services, Office of Management and Budget, Communications, Economic Development, Public Works, and Utilities Divisions
- Advise staff on legal issues related to Orange County Convention Center and the Tourist Development Tax
- Provide guidance to Board of County Commissioners and staff on levying various surtaxes and advise on authorized expenditure of revenue for same
- Routinely negotiate, prepare, and review contracts, easements, legal memoranda, leases, and grant agreements
- Provide counsel and communicate legal opinions to elected and appointed public officials and employees regarding ethics, gifts, dual office-holding, and financial disclosures
- Draft County ordinances, resolutions, administrative regulations, and policies
- Attend meetings of the Board of County Commissioners and numerous advisory boards as needed to provide legal counsel, conduct training sessions, and make presentations on proposed policy issues
- Regularly conduct training sessions on the Government in the Sunshine Law and the Florida Public Records Act
- Attend meetings of County administration and other senior management to provide legal counsel and develop strategy on diverse and complex County issues
- Liaison to Orange County Charter Review Commission during 2016 and 2020 cycles

**Brown, Garganese, Weiss & D'Agresta, P.A.**  
*Senior Attorney*

**Orlando, Florida**  
September 2003 – March 2014

- Served as primary assistant city attorney to multiple Central Florida municipalities
- Advised elected and appointed local officers and city staff on a wide variety of legal matters involving land use, employment law, permitting and development, general liability, annexation, code enforcement, public utilities, procurement, the Government in the Sunshine Law, the Florida Public Records Act, and ethics
- Attended public meetings as legal counsel to municipal governing bodies, planning and zoning boards, code enforcement boards, boards of adjustment, charter review committees, and community redevelopment agencies
- Performed research and analysis; prepared legal opinions, memoranda, ordinances, resolutions, administrative policies and procedures, and other regulatory documents; negotiated and drafted contracts, bid documents, easements, development agreements, special event agreements, construction contracts, and real estate documents
- Prepared and presented training sessions to elected and appointed public officials and city staff on issues related to the Government in the Sunshine Law, the Florida Public Records Act, quasi-judicial procedures, code enforcement, Roberts Rules of Order, and ethics
- Provided litigation support in state and federal court matters

**State of Florida, Third District Court of Appeal**  
*Law Clerk to Honorable Melvia B. Green (retired)*

**Miami, Florida**  
August 2002 – August 2003

- Performed legal research and analysis related to Judge's case load
- Conducted analysis and summarized appellate briefs for judicial panel
- Assisted in preparation and drafting of majority, concurring, and dissenting opinions

## **Education**

**Florida State University College of Law**  
*J.D., Cum Laude*

**Tallahassee, Florida**

- Law Review
- Moot Court
- FSU Summer Program in Law at Oxford

**Florida State University**  
*B.A. English & Business, Cum Laude*

**Tallahassee, Florida**

# Katherine Latorre

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Winter Springs, Florida · klatorre76@gmail.com · (407) 415-5829

May 3, 2023

Seminole County Board of County Commissioners  
c/o S. Renée Narloch & Associates  
2910 Kerry Forest Parkway, D4-242  
Tallahassee, Florida 32309

**Re: County Attorney Position**

Dear Board of County Commissioners:

Over the last 20 years, I have dedicated my legal career to the practice of local government law by representing multiple Central Florida municipalities and most recently, Orange County. As a near-lifelong resident of Seminole County, I am thrilled to apply for the position of County Attorney. I am confident that my experience and expertise in local government law make me an ideal candidate for the position.

I have extensive experience representing both elected and appointed public officials, serving as legal counsel during public meetings, and advising on complex and controversial issues. Since 2008, I have been Board Certified by the Florida Bar in City, County & Local Government Law. Board certification recognizes an attorney's special knowledge, skills, and proficiency in a specialized area of law, as well as professionalism and ethics in practice. The board certification process includes a rigorous application, a written examination, and peer reviews.

I have served in the Orange County Attorney's Office since 2014 and currently supervise the legal work of attorneys and paralegals in the office's general/administrative law section. I encourage collaboration among my team and the other attorneys in the office, and I take great pride in the quality of work produced and the interpersonal relationships I have established.

My work with a variety of local governments and dozens of elected officials throughout my career has allowed me to experience how different jurisdictions operate and to recognize the differing needs of each community. I am already familiar with Seminole County as a resident, and I look forward to learning more about the Seminole County Attorney's Office and how my skill set and experience can serve the legal needs of the County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Katherine Latorre

## DAVID MARGOLIS

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2369 Podocarpus Way, Clearwater, FL 33759, Cell (407) 927-2717

Email DavidMargolis@email.com

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 2021 - present | <b>City of Clearwater, FL</b><br>City Attorney   |
| 2019 - 2021    | <b>City of Orlando, FL</b><br>Chief Assistant City Attorney  |
| 2016 - 2019    | <b>Orange County Clerk of the Circuit Court, Orlando, FL</b><br>General Counsel  |
| 2015 - 2016    | <b>City of Hollywood, FL</b><br>Public Safety Legal Advisor (Senior Assistant City Attorney)   |
| 2011 - 2015    | <b>State of Florida, Orlando, FL</b><br>Regional Legal Advisor (Assistant General Counsel) to Florida<br>Department of Law Enforcement |

### **EDUCATION**

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 2008 | J.D., University of Miami School of Law, Coral Gables, FL       |
| 2005 | B.S., Legal Studies, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL |

# DAVID H. MARGOLIS

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2369 Podocarpus Way  
Clearwater, Florida, 33759  
Cellular 407-927-2717  
DavidMargolis@email.com

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## **EXPERIENCE**

### **City of Clearwater, Clearwater, Florida**

City Attorney: 2021 – Present

- Leads an office of twelve (12) employees with final authority regarding personnel decisions
- Negotiated a multi-parcel, \$400M development agreement and sale of City real estate that was subsequently approved by voters by a 2:1 margin in a November 2022 referendum
- Successfully negotiated on behalf of the Community Redevelopment Agency (“CRA”) a purchase and redevelopment plan for sensitive real estate owned by the City’s oldest church
- Balanced a wide array of stakeholder interests by reaching agreement with a new partner for long-term fixed base operator (“FBO”) services for Clearwater Airpark
- Supervised a comprehensive rewrite of the City’s impact fees for Parks and Recreation
- Negotiated an intergovernmental land exchange with the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (“PSTA”) while navigating environmental contamination on both sites
- Served as issuer’s counsel during the City’s \$30M bond issuance for Imagine Clearwater

### **City of Orlando, Orlando, Florida**

Chief Assistant City Attorney: 2019 – 2021

- Managed a team of several in-house attorneys and paralegals assigned to public safety
- Presented “Hot Topics for the Municipal Attorney: Emergency Orders and COVID-19” to the Florida Municipal Attorneys Association (FMAA) in September 2020
- Served on the City’s collective bargaining team for public safety
- Author: “From Policing to Parenting,” *Police Chief Magazine*, published by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (July 2020 edition) – this article educates law enforcement executives regarding maternity laws in the workplace

### **Orange County Clerk of the Circuit Court, Orlando, Florida**

General Counsel: 2016 – 2019

- Chief in-house counsel for a constitutional officer employing nearly 500 people
- Graduate of Leadership Orlando, Class 95
- Successfully presented *Orange County v. Singh, et al*, 268 So.3d 668 (Fla. 2019) as *amicus*
- Represented the Clerk as primary liaison with judicial and legislative partners
- Amicably resolved a complex ADA lawsuit threatened by the U.S. Department of Justice
- Advised the Clerk and other stakeholders regarding Amendment 10, a proposal approved by the Constitution Revision Commission (“CRC”) and ratified by voters in Nov. 2018

### **City of Hollywood, Hollywood, Florida**

Public Safety Legal Advisor (Senior Assistant City Attorney): 2015 – 2016

- Served as in-house counsel for both the Police Department and Fire Department (combined budget of \$123 million)

- Directly supervised a paralegal and three court liaisons
- Oversaw outside counsel in several high profile employment and tort cases

### **State of Florida, Orlando, Florida**

Regional Legal Advisor (Assistant General Counsel) assigned to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement: 2011-2015

- Promoted within State government to an in-house role with FDLE
- Advised the agency on wide-ranging matters including public records law, proposed legislation, and public integrity investigations
- Recipient of FDLE's annual "Contribution to Criminal Justice" award in 2015
- Presented an advanced civil forfeiture CLE for the Florida Association of Police Attorneys (FAPA): October, 2014 – topics included Bank Secrecy Act and jurisdiction of the courts
- Submitted an *amicus* brief to the Massachusetts Supreme Court in *Commonwealth v. Leon Gelfgatt*, 11 N.E.3d 605 (Mass. 2014)(a case in which a lawyer was charged with fraud but refused to decrypt his encrypted devices for law enforcement to review)

Assistant State Attorney: 2008 – 2011

- Received the "Champion of Justice" award: November 2011
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Top Prosecutor of the Year: October 2011
- Tried more than two dozen cases to verdict as First Chair
- Litigated more than thirty appellate cases, including petitions for extraordinary writs

### **Seminole State College, Sanford, Florida**

Adjunct Professor: 2010 – 2015

- Taught several semesters of "Business Law" and "The Legal & Ethical Environment of Business"
- Highest rated professor in the Legal Studies department at the time

## **EDUCATION**

### **Florida Bar Board Certified Specialist in City, County, & Local Government Law: 2022**

- Completed advanced continuing education in local government, and successfully passed a full-day, expert level exam administered by the Florida Bar
- Only 301 lawyers in Florida are currently certified as experts in local government

### **J.D., 2008**

University of Miami School of Law, Coral Gables, Florida

- Graduated *Cum Laude*
- Inter-American Law Review, Associate Editor
- Dean's Certificate of Achievement (book award): Constitutional Law
- Dean's Fellow (teaching assistant): Torts (2007) and Criminal Procedure (2008)
- Honors in Litigation (highest grade in class): Trial Skills
- Merit Scholarship Recipient

### **B.S., Legal Studies, 2005**

University of Central Florida, Orlando, Florida

- GPA: 3.79
- Thesis Honors: "The Constitutionality of Electronic Surveillance in the USA Patriot Act"
- Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society (Top 10% of senior class)

David Margolis  
2369 Podocarpus Way  
Clearwater, Florida, 33759  
(407) 927-2717

April 24, 2023

S. Renee Narloch  
2910 Kerry Forest Pkwy D4-242  
Tallahassee, FL 32309

Dear Mrs. Narloch:

I am pleased to submit this application to serve as Seminole County's next County Attorney. I am a board-certified expert in local government, currently serving as City Attorney for the City of Clearwater. In that role, I lead an office of similar size and budget to the County Attorney's Office in Seminole County. Recent office accomplishments include optimizing attorney assignments, recruiting new talent, and implementing a merit-based pay plan. In addition, we deliver services under-budget by strategically selecting outside counsel and monitoring external billing.

I am also proud to support Clearwater's thoughtful approach to real estate. Our City Council has invested in affordable housing, modernized our impact fee system, created a new CRA district, and improved public services ranging from downtown parking to aviation. In each instance, the City Attorney's Office worked in tandem with City administration and elected officials to create legal structures that advance the City's goals and uphold the public trust.

As a shoreline community operating two marinas and encompassing one of America's most popular beaches, Clearwater shares Seminole County's commitment to conservation. During my time as City Attorney, we negotiated an energy-saving contract for City facilities, enhanced our waterborne transportation, demonstrated our regulatory compliance with potable water standards, and rehabilitated brownfields in a fiscally responsible way through voluntary tax credits.

Prior to joining the City of Clearwater, I represented major government stakeholders in the greater Orlando area. Earlier roles include Chief Assistant City Attorney for the City of Orlando, where I managed a team of lawyers and paralegals assigned to public safety; and General Counsel for the Orange County Clerk of Court. This experience representing a constitutional officer will prove invaluable in forging the strong intergovernmental relationships that are vital to a county's success.

Although I am very satisfied in my role as City Attorney, I was raised in Seminole County – and my parents remain in Seminole County to this day. It would be an honor to continue performing the work that I enjoy, while returning home to represent a community that is always in my heart.

Sincerely,



David Margolis, B.C.S.



## DESMOND MORRELL

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Phone (407) 925-8750

Email DWMorrell7@gmail.com

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- 2016 - present     **Seminole County Attorney's Office**, Sanford, FL  
Senior Assistant County Attorney (2018-present)  
Assistant County Attorney (2016-2018)
- 2014 - 2016     **Office of the Public Defender, Ninth Judicial Circuit**, Orlando, FL  
Assistant Public Defender
- 2013 - 2014     **Joseph Morrell, Attorney & Counselor at Law**, Orlando, FL  
Law Clerk
- 2012 - 2013     **Howard University's Criminal Justice Clinical Law Program**,  
Washington, DC  
Law Clerk

### **EDUCATION**

- 2013     J.D., Howard University School of Law, Washington, DC
- 2010     B.A., Political Science, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

# Desmond W. Morrell

(407) 925-8750 • DWMorrell7@gmail.com

## EDUCATION

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### Howard University School of Law

Washington, DC

Juris Doctor, May 2013

Honors: Laverne Noyes Scholarship

Student Bar Association Representative

Highest-Grade Recognition: Agency, Partnership & the LLC (Fall 2012)

Criminal Justice Clinical Law Program (Spring 2013)

### University of Florida

Gainesville, FL

Major: Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, May 2010; *Cum Laude*

Minor: Environmental Studies

Honors: Full Scholarship through Florida Bright Futures Program; Presidential Scholarship

### Seminole High School

Sanford, FL

International Baccalaureate Program Graduate, May 2006; *Magna Cum Laude*

## ADMISSIONS

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Admitted to Florida Bar (2014); 9+years of Local Government Law & Litigation practice

## LEGAL EXPERIENCE

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### Seminole County Attorney's Office

Sanford, FL

#### *Senior Assistant County Attorney*

June 2018 – Present

- Serve as legal counsel for Seminole County's Board of Commissioners on issues pertaining to Labor & Employment, Planning & Development, Budget, Public Safety/Emergency Management, and the Fire Dept.
- Attend and participate in County Commission meetings and other duly noticed subsidiary and advisory board meetings, with an expectation to provide immediate guidance regarding legal and procedural issues.
- Adept at conducting quasi-judicial hearings; examples include, Dangerous Dog Hearings, Code Enforcement matters, Zoning matters, and Variance hearings.
- Attorney for County's Planning & Zoning Commission to assist with legal issues and quasi-judicial procedures pertaining to rezones, major amendments, large- and small-scale future land use amendments.
- Lead attorney for the County's Board of Adjustment to address legal issues regarding variance requests.
- Served alongside County's Leadership team to strategize the County's COVID-19 response efforts. Played an integral role in the preparation of Executive Orders, vendor agreements, interlocal agreements, temporary leases, and FEMA documents, while remaining legally consistent with both state and federal directives.
- Provided counsel to County's Grievance Board during four termination grievance hearings and drafted the Final Orders to support the Board's findings of fact or conclusions.
- Successfully defended the County in three (3) matters involving the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Allegations ranged from unlawful discrimination to retaliation; however, none were validated.
- Support County Management and Emergency Operations during Hurricane Ian & Hurricane Nicole by preparing all Executive Orders, Interlocal Agreements, and MOUs; knowing & interpreting all state and federal directives.
- Led County's decennial Redistricting Process from inception to conclusion, which resulted in new District Maps that were approved & adopted locally and certified by the state in 2021.
- Worked closely with staff and outside counsel to recover \$3.9+M in settlement funds as County's primary attorney in the nationwide Opioid Litigation.

#### *Assistant County Attorney*

March 2016 – June 2018

- Served as legal counsel for issues pertaining to Community Development, grant compliance, affordable housing, public safety, animal services, public records, ethics and the Sunshine Law.
- Prepared and negotiated hundreds of contract agreements, demand letters, mortgages, and legal memoranda.
- Developed and reviewed ordinances, Administrative Code provisions and internal policies for County.
- Provided advice and analysis concerning any legal matters that arose during Hurricane Irma and the subsequent

recovery efforts; drafted all Executive Orders, lease agreements, and memoranda of understanding to aide in the County's response to the storm event.

- Served as Counsel to County's 2017-18 Charter Review Commission.

#### **Office of the Public Defender, Ninth Judicial Circuit**

Orlando, FL

##### ***Assistant Public Defender***

May 2014 – March 2016

- Represented indigent clients charged with various Misdemeanor and Felony offenses through initial appearances, the discovery process, litigation, and any post resolution matters.
- Drafted and argued Motions to Suppress Evidence, Motions to Set/Reduce Bond, Motions in Limine, and Motions to Dismiss; some of which resulted in reduced charges or complete dismissals.
- Prepared and served as counsel in more than 12 jury trials: DUI, Battery, Leaving the Scene of an Accident, Disorderly Conduct, Illegal Discharge of a Firearm, and Resisting Officer without Violence.

#### **Joseph Morrell, Attorney & Counselor at Law**

Orlando, FL

##### ***Law Clerk***

May 2013 – April 2014

- Drafted civil and criminal pleadings & motions, helped prepare lead attorney as well as witnesses for depositions.
- Attended court proceedings and client meetings to gather pertinent details and provide immediate research.
- Drafted contracts and other legal documents for use during City Code Enforcement proceedings.

#### **Howard University's Criminal Justice Clinical Law Program**

Washington, DC

##### ***Law Clerk***

September 2012 – May 2013

- Represented indigent clients charged with various Misdemeanor and Felony offenses through initial appearances, the discovery process, litigation, and any post resolution matters.

#### **Congressional Internship on Capitol Hill**

Washington, DC

##### ***Legal Intern***

January 2012- April 2012

- Researched statistics and created presentations pertaining to The Veterans Jobs Corps Act of 2012.
- Wrote memoranda on the Stand Your Ground legislation in order to promote the Congressional understanding of the legal matters in the Trayvon Martin Case.

#### **Law Offices of Gary, Williams, Finney, et al., P.L.**

Stuart, FL

##### ***Legal Intern***

June 2011- August 2011

- Drafted memoranda, conducted document review, and helped organize discovery items leading up to a complex negligence trial, which later resulted in a \$23 Billion dollar jury verdict.

### **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS**

- 
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| • <b>Florida Bar Leadership Fellow</b> , Class VI                        | • <b>Florida Assn. of County Attorneys</b> , General Governmental Committee Member |
| • <b>Florida Bar</b> , Gov't and Public Policy Advocacy Committee Member | • <b>Seminole County Inns of Court</b> , Member                                    |
| • <b>Paul C. Perkins Bar Assn.</b> , President (2017)                    | • <b>Seminole County Bar Association</b> , Member                                  |
| • <b>9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Professionalism Board</b> , Member           | • <b>Virgil Hawkins Fla. Ch. National Bar Assn.</b>                                |
| • <b>Nat'l Black Lawyers Top 40 Under 40</b> (2022)                      | • <b>Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.</b> , Member                                 |
|  | • <b>Hamilton Elementary School</b> , Volunteer                                    |

### **PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES**

- 
- ❖ **Justice James E.C. Perry**, *Retired Florida Supreme Court Justice*  
Phone: 407-332-7922 ; E-mail: jperry26@cfl.rr.com
  - ❖ **Hon. Reginald Whitehead**, *Administrative Judge, Orange County*  
Phone: 407-836-9583; E-mail: ctjurw1@ocnjcc.org
  - ❖ **Thomas J. Wilkes**, *Former Orange County Attorney*  
Phone: 407-843-8880; E-mail: tom.wilkes@gray-robinson.com
  - ❖ **Bryant Applegate**, *Current Supervisor & Seminole County Attorney*  
Phone: 407-665-7259; E-mail: bapplegate@seminolecountyfl.gov
  - ❖ **Brice Aikens**, *Former Supervisor & Board Certified Criminal Trial Lawyer*  
Phone: 407-228-3838; E-mail: baikens@thelawman.net

Desmond W. Morrell  
1380 Branch Hill Court  
Apopka, FL 32712  
Dwmorrell7@gmail.com  
April 17, 2023

Board of County Commissioners  
Seminole County  
1101 E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Sanford, FL 32771

Dear Seminole County Board of County Commissioners:

I am writing to express my keen interest in the County Attorney position at Seminole County. After reviewing the job description and reflecting on my years working in the County Attorney's Office, I am excited about the opportunity to leverage my skills and experience to lead the County's Legal Department. I am confident that my qualifications align perfectly with the requirements of this role, and I am eager to support the Seminole County Attorney's Office in its mission to continue providing exceptional legal services to the Board of County Commissioners and its subsidiary departments.

As an attorney with more than nine years of experience in local government and litigation, I have developed a strong foundation in administrative and constitutional law, legal research, and trial work. I hold a Law Degree (JD) from Howard University School of Law, a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Florida, and I am a member in good standing with the Florida Bar. My current responsibilities within the County Attorney's Office include counseling commissioners and department directors on ethics, public records, & Sunshine Law considerations; planning & land use concerns; budgetary items; and myriad of long term projects such as the Opioid Litigation, the Charter Review Commission, and Redistricting, to name a few. Engaging in these sorts of projects, while keeping up with my day-to-day responsibilities, has honed my skills in providing effective legal counsel, strategizing for the County's long-term goals, and collaborating with my fellow attorneys to yield the best outcomes for the County.

One of my key strengths is my ability to analyze complex legal issues and provide practical solutions. This ability was highlighted during the County's Covid-19 response. Facing unprecedented government reach, the County's leadership relied on my analysis of the Governor's Executive Orders, Federal directives, and best practices of the medical community to promote the health and welfare of Seminole County's residents. Proudly, we maintained one of the lower positivity rates in the State and promoted the moniker that Seminole County was open for business, so as to promote economic stability, mental peace, and a sense of normalcy, despite the precautions we were taking.


I am also known for my attention to detail and my ability to communicate legal concepts effectively to both legal and non-legal audiences. These skills become necessary in many of our quasi-judicial proceedings as I explain to both the Board and members of the public the procedural posture for the hearings as well as identifying the legal issues at play.

In addition to my legal expertise, I am a team player with excellent communication skills, both written and verbal. During my tenure with Seminole County, I have collaborated with attorneys from top firms in the private sector, solo practitioners, and fellow local government attorneys on key items such as interlocal agreements, joint planning agreements, regional planning initiatives, and emergency response matters. I pride myself on maintaining a stellar reputation in the community, as evidenced by my appointment to the 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit's Professionalism Panel, my selection to the National Black Attorney's Top 40 under 40, and my selection to the Florida Bar's Leadership Academy.

I am also proficient in managing and supervising legal staff, as evidenced by my experience leading the hiring process of the County's two newest attorneys, while continuing to serve in my daily role as lead attorney in all matters related to Emergency Response, Labor & Employment, Ethics and the Sunshine Law.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to discussing how my skills and experience align with the needs of Seminole County in more detail. Please find my resume attached for your review. I am available for an interview at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Desmond W. Morrell". The signature is stylized, with the first name "Desmond" written in a cursive-like script, followed by "W." and "Morrell" in a more formal, blocky script.

Desmond W. Morrell,  
Senior Assistant County Attorney

## **DIEGO “WOODY” RODRIGUEZ**

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401 Adams Drive, Maitland, FL 32751, Cell (321) 663-7884

Email [Woody.Rodriguez@gmail.com](mailto:Woody.Rodriguez@gmail.com)

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 2019 - present | <b>Central Florida Expressway Authority</b> , Orlando, FL<br>General Counsel                            |
| 2010 - 2019    | <b>Orange County School Board</b> , Orlando, FL<br>General Counsel                                      |
| 2005 - 2010    | <b>Marchena &amp; Graham</b> , Orlando, FL<br>Partner   |
| 2000 - 2005    | <b>Orange County Attorney's Office</b> , Orlando, FL<br>Assistant County Attorney                       |
| 1998 - 1999    | <b>Grower, Ketcham, Moré, Rutherford, Noecker, Bronson &amp; Eide, P.A.</b> , Orlando, FL<br>Associate  |
| 1995 - 1998    | <b>The Florida Senate Committee on Regulated Industries</b> ,<br>Tallahassee, FL<br>Legislative Analyst |

### **EDUCATION**

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 1995 | J.D., Florida State University College of Law, Tallahassee, FL |
| 1992 | B.A., English, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL       |

**DIEGO “WOODY” RODRIGUEZ**  
**401 Adams Drive**  
**Maitland, Florida 32751**  
**Woody.Rodriguez@gmail.com • (321) 663-7884 (Cell)**

**EMPLOYMENT:**

**Central Florida Expressway Authority, General Counsel**

October 2019 to Present - Orlando, Florida

Serve as General Counsel to the Central Florida Expressway Authority advising the Executive Director and Board on a variety of legal matters including real estate acquisitions, general transactional matters, environmental permitting and bond issues. Manage outside firms with the acquisition of real estate through eminent domain, oversee the defense of all claims and work collaboratively with local governments in developing transportation solutions. Advise procurement director on procurement policies and contractual issues including performance bond claims.

**Orange County School Board, General Counsel**

June 2010 to October 2019 - Orlando, Florida

Served as General Counsel to the Orange County School Board advising the Board on a variety of legal matters including public education policies, public records disclosures, government-in-the-sunshine requirements, labor relations, negotiation of settlements, compliance with ethics and election laws, employment law matters, student expulsions, general transactional matters, land use issues and construction and finance issues. Manage outside firms and an in-house legal team that provides complete legal support to Orange County Public Schools, the 9<sup>th</sup> largest school district in the country and the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest employer in Orange County.

**Marchena & Graham, Partner**

January 2005 to June 2010 - Orlando, Florida

Served as General Counsel to the Orange County Supervisor of Elections, Bill Cowles and represented the Orange County Property Appraiser's Office and Bill Donegan in civil litigation specializing in valuation and agricultural exemption matters, including a \$3.7 million tax award in *H.E. Orlando v. Donegan*. Served as lead counsel to the 2007 Orange County Charter Review Commission, lead counsel to the Orange County/City of Orlando Consolidation of Services Study Commission, Special Master to the Ground Transportation Committee for the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority and represented the Orange County School Board on conflict eminent domain matters. Represented non-government clients in general civil litigation and transactional matters.

**Orange County Attorney's Office, Assistant County Attorney**

January 2000 to January 2005 - Orlando, Florida

General Counsel to the Orange County Supervisor of Elections, Bill Cowles. Lead counsel for the 2001 Orange County Redistricting Advisory Committee. Represented Orange County in general civil litigation matters with a concentration on civil right claims, condemnation actions, contractual disputes and land-use issues.

**Grower, Ketcham, Moré, Rutherford, Noecker, Bronson & Eide, P.A., Associate**

August 1998 to December 1999 - Orlando, Florida

General insurance defense litigation with a concentration in workers compensation matters and §1983 civil rights claims representing Orange County and the Orange County Sheriff's Office.

**The Florida Senate Committee on Regulated Industries, Legislative Analyst**

September 1995 to August 1998 - Tallahassee, Florida

Assisted state senators by preparing, analyzing, and tracking legislation and making presentations to appropriate committees on issues related to the regulation of alcohol, tobacco, parimutuel wagering, timeshares and condominium associations. Provided legal advice and research on challenged congressional and senate districts. *See, Lawyer v. Department of Justice*, 521 U.S. 567 (1997). Reported on the Florida House of Representatives Reapportionment Public Hearings. Provided legal assistance and counsel to the 1998 Constitutional Revision Commission.

**BAR ADMISSIONS:**

Board Certified, City, County and Local Government Law, 2006-Present  
Certified Civil Mediator, Florida Supreme Court, 2006-Present  
Registered Parliamentarian, National Association of Parliamentarians, 2011-Present  
United States Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit, 2010  
Southern Federal District of Florida, 2005  
Middle Federal District of Florida, 1998  
Northern Federal District of Florida, 1997  
State Bar of Florida, 1995

**VOLUNTARY BAR MEMBERSHIPS:**

Orange County Bar Association, 1998-Present  
Hispanic Bar Association of Central Florida, 2000-Present  
Florida School Board Attorney's Association, 2010-2019  
American Bar Association, 2001-2005, 2013-2015  
Tallahassee Bar Association, 1996-1998

**LEGAL COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND ACTIVITIES:**

*Board Member*, Florida Bar Board of Governors, 2023-  
*Chair*, Orange County School Board, 2021 Reapportionment Advisory Committee  
*Presenter*, Annual Florida Ethics Training for Elected Officials for the Florida Association of District Superintendents and the Florida School Board Association, 2014-2022  
*Florida Supreme Court Appointee, Committee Member*, Florida Supreme Court Family and Children in the Court Steering Committee, 2012-2016  
*Board Member*, Orange County Bar Association Foundation, 2010-2015  
*Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Appointee, 2010 Commission to Improve the Civil Justice System, Member*, 2010  
*President*, Orange County Bar Association, 2009-2010  
*Florida Gubernatorial Appointment*, Statewide Nominating Commission for Judges of Compensation Claims, 2005-2009  
*Committee Member*, Florida Bar, Member Outreach Committee, 2006-2009  
*Florida Supreme Court Appointee, Committee Member*, Justice Teaching Initiative for the Ninth Judicial Circuit, 2006-2008  
*Membership Outreach Co-Chair*, Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division Board of Governors, 2005-2006  
*Co-Author*, Getting Involved in the Florida Bar: A Guide to Sections, Committees and Appointments, 2006  
*President*, Young Lawyers Section of the Orange County Bar Association, 2004-2005  
*Board Member*, ABA Section of Litigation Judicial Internship Opportunity Program, 2002-2005  
*National Diversity Director*, American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, 2003-2004  
*Directed and Presented* The Trial of the Century: A Re-Enactment of Brown v. Board, Spring 2004, on behalf of the ABA YLD Spring Conference in Memphis, Tennessee  
*President*, Hispanic Bar Association of Central Florida, 2002

**COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND ACTIVITIES:**

*Chair*, Florida State University Undergraduate Studies Development Council 2022-Present  
*Member*, Foundation for Orange County Public Schools, 2020-Present  
*Legal Affairs/Board Member*, Winter Park High School Foundation, 2020-Present  
*Elected Board of Directors*, Florida Citrus Sports, 2006-2012, 2019-Present  
*Member*, Orange County Public Schools, 2022 Superintendent Search Advisory Committee  
*Board Member*, Tiger Bay Club of Central Florida, 2019-Present  
*Pro Bono Attorney*, Guardian Ad Litem Program, 1998-Present  
*Board Member*, Seminole Torchbearers/Student Affairs Development Council, 2012-2022  
*President and Immediate Past President*, Foundation for Foster Children, 2018-2021  
*Associate Board of Directors*, Florida Citrus Sports, 2003-2006, 2012-2019  
*Chair*, Staff Parish Relations Committee, First United Methodist Church of Winter Park, 2017-2018  
*Board Member*, Howard Phillips Center for Children and Families 2014-2017  
*Little League Coach*, Maitland Little League, 2013-2018  
*Youth Flag Football Coach*, YMCA Recreational, Mosquito, Under the Lights and i9 Leagues, 2012-2022



*Cub Scouts Den Leader*, Cub Scouts Pack 678, FUMCWP, 2012-2016  
*Promiseland Sunday School Leader and Confirmation Mentor*, First United Methodist Church, 2011-2018  
*Legal Counsel/Board Member*, Hispanic Heritage Scholarship Fund of Metro Orlando, 2006-2016  
*Vice-President, Founding Member*, Dommerich Foundation Fund, Inc., 2009-2010  
*Vice-Chair and Member*, School Advisory Council, Dommerich Elementary, 2007-2010  
*Orange County Mayoral Appointment*, Central Florida Regional Commission on Homelessness, 2007-2008

## **HONORS AND RECOGNITION:**

*Florida Trend Magazine's Florida Legal Elite*, 2010-2012, 2014-2018, 2020-2022. Recognized by *Florida Trend* as one of the top lawyers practicing in Florida according to a statewide survey of attorneys.  
*AV Preeminent Rating*, Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory, 2009-Present, AV Preeminent is the highest peer review rating available from LexisNexis Martindale-Hubbell  
*Orlando's Top Lawyers*, Orlando Life, 2010 & 2013, Recognized as one of the top lawyers in Orlando with a specialty in government law by *Orlando Life Magazine* (a/k/a *Orlando Home and Leisure*).  
*10 Businessmen to Watch*, Orlando Business Journal, 2009, Recognized as one of ten local executives that has exhibited a leadership role in the philanthropic, civic or political arenas and is poised to make a vital contribution in their industry and their community in the coming year.  
*Forty Under 40*, Orlando Business Journal, 2009, Recognizes 40 of Central Florida's top young business and civic leaders who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievement and a commitment to community service.  
*Lawrence Matthews Professionalism Award*, Orange County Bar Association, 2007 Professionalism Award. Presented to a young lawyer that exemplifies the highest standards of professionalism of the OCBA.  
*Outstanding Executive Council Member*, Orange County Bar Association, 2006-07 and 2007-08. President's Award presented to an Executive Council Member that made significant contributions to the OCBA.  
*Florida Bar Young Lawyer's Diversity Award*, Florida Bar YLD, 2005. Presented annually to a person or entity that demonstrates the highest morality and respect for all persons and diversity, for efforts and allegiance to creating diversity, and for promoting a more diverse workplace.  
*Star of the Year*, ABA YLD, 2003-04. One of only four recipients nationwide recognized for outstanding achievement, contributions and service to the ABA Young Lawyers Division.  
*Star of the Quarter*, ABA YLD, Spring 2004. For outstanding achievement and service to the ABA.  
*Young Lawyer Fellowship*, ABA Litigation Section, 2001-2003, One of five young lawyers selected nationwide to attend executive meetings and an appointment to Litigation Section leadership.  
*Lynn Futch Most Productive Young Lawyer Award*, Florida Bar YLD, 2002. Honors one young lawyer in Florida for outstanding community and bar leadership, legal skills, and integrity.  
*Rookie of the Year*, Florida Citrus Sports, 2000. Recognizes an outstanding first year volunteer.

## **EDUCATION:**

**Florida State University College of Law**  
Tallahassee, Florida  
J.D., 1995

**Oxford University**  
Oxford, England  
Attended Florida State College of Law Conference, Summer 1993

**Florida State University**  
Tallahassee, Florida  
B.A. in English with an Emphasis on Business, 1992

**Florida International University**  
Miami, Florida  
A.A. 1989

## **LANGUAGES:**

Fluent in Spanish.

**Diego "Woody" Rodriguez**  
401 Adams Drive  
Maitland, Florida 32751  
Woody.Rodriguez@gmail.com  
(321) 663-7884

May 5, 2023

Renée Narloch  
S. Renée Narloch & Associates  
2910 Kerry Forest Pkwy D4-242  
Tallahassee, FL 32309

RE: County Attorney Position (Seminole County)

Dear Renée:

It is with great enthusiasm that I am submitting my application and attaching my resume for the County Attorney position in Seminole County. The County Attorney position is one of the most pivotal hires for any county government and I appreciate the opportunity to be considered.

For the past 27 years, most of my legal career has been focused on the representation of governmental agencies, boards, and constitutional officers. I began my legal career with the Florida Senate as a staff analyst for the Regulated Industries Committee in Tallahassee where I refined my legal writing skills while drafting legislation and staff reports. After a short stint in private practice, I served as an assistant county attorney with Orange County in their litigation section. While there, I was mentored and learned from an outstanding collection of legal scholars, including one colleague who became a Supreme Court Justice and another who is the current Seminole County Attorney.

In 2005, I returned to private practice with Marchena & Graham and a year later became board certified in City, County, and Local Government Law. Out of thousands of lawyers in Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties, only 38 are board certified in this practice area and I have maintained my certification longer than all but three of them. In fact, less than 5% of all lawyers are board certified. In 2006, I became a circuit court mediator and have utilized those skills as a mediator on behalf of the clients I represent as an advocate. Shortly thereafter, I became a partner in the firm and represented constitutional officers, such as Orange County Property Appraiser Bill Donegan and Orange County Supervisor of Elections Bill Cowles. I was also selected as lead counsel for special boards such as the Orange County Charter Review Commission, a City of Orlando/Orange County Study Commission, and the election canvassing boards, among others.



In 2010, after completing my year as President of the Orange County Bar Association, which at the time had over 3,000 members, I was selected to become the first in-house General Counsel for the Orange County School Board. While the challenges of representing such a large school district are varied, OCPS is the ninth largest school district in the country and the second largest employer in Orange County, my focus was to assemble a team of talented lawyers to represent the school board and reduce our dependency on outside counsel. Through some innovative leadership techniques that included an emphasis on board certification, I was able to build a hard-working and highly respected team of in-house lawyers and fostered more communication and trust between the legal department and our school board members and administrators. In fact, at one point, five of our seven lawyers were board certified in at least 1 practice area. I am also proud to share that some of my former associates are now serving as general counsel for other government institutions.

My knowledge of public records laws, government-in-the-sunshine provisions, and ethics, as reinforced through my board certification courses, has led to numerous opportunities to conduct trainings for elected officials throughout the state including superintendents, school board members and supervisors of elections.


In 2019, I joined the Central Florida Expressway Authority ("CFX") as general counsel. At CFX, I have transitioned to more of a transactional law practice, reviewing contracts, agreements and preparing board memorandums while managing several outside law firms and consultants that represent CFX in complex real estate acquisitions. I have also vastly expanded my knowledge of our regional transportation issues and the potential solutions that exist.

As a community member, I have led or served on a number of civic and professional organization boards, volunteered in our community, and coached many youth sport teams and even a middle school chess team. All of these experiences have helped shape my leadership style, particularly my ability to connect with and motivate others and build a strong, vibrant office culture.

Through it all, I consider myself to be a problem solver and public servant first. I am always mindful that no matter the role, I am an ambassador and representative of the clients I represent. In sum, I believe my vast legal and managerial experiences would benefit Seminole County and hope the Board will give my application full consideration.

Should you have any questions or need additional information or references, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

  
Diego "Woody" Rodriguez

## DAVID SHIELDS

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1219 Parkland Court, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714, Cell (407) 462-2716

Email dgsh@cfl.rr.com

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 2006 - present | <b>Seminole County Attorney's Office</b> , Sanford, FL<br>Deputy County Attorney for Public Works and Environmental Services (2021-present)<br>Senior Assistant County Attorney for Public Works and Environmental Services (2017-2021)<br>Assistant County Attorney (2006-2017) |
| 2005 - 2006    | <b>Wean &amp; Malchow, P.A.</b> , Orlando, FL<br>Attorney  |
| 2003 - 2005    | <b>Rush, Marshall, Jones &amp; Kelly, P.A.</b> , Orlando, FL<br>Attorney   |
| 1997 - 2003    | <b>Clayton &amp; McCulloh</b> , Maitland, FL<br>Attorney   |
| 1996 - 1997    | <b>Kirchman Corporation</b> , Altamonte Springs, FL<br>Attorney  |
| 1987 - 1995    | <b>Foster &amp; Kelly, P.A.</b> , Orlando, FL<br>Attorney  |
| 1979 - 1984    | <b>Naval Reactors</b> , Washington, DC<br>United States Navy Supply Corps Officer  |

### **EDUCATION**

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 1987 | J.D., University of Florida College of Law |
| 1979 | B.A., Economics, Vanderbilt University     |

## **EXPERIENCE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY THE NUMBERS**

- 35** years as a member of The Florida Bar.
- 17** years as a local government attorney, all with Seminole County.
- 2** first chair civil trials, including one for Seminole County.
- 4** first chair appellate court cases, including three for Seminole County.
- 1** feature, front cover article for THE FLORIDA BAR JOURNAL.
- 15** years on zoning and planning boards for the City of Altamonte Springs.
- 9** years as a midshipman and a commissioned officer in the United States Navy.

## **EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

**Seminole County Attorney's Office**, Sanford, Florida (2006-Present).

### **Positions Held:**

- Deputy County Attorney for Public Works and Environmental Services (2021-Present).
- Senior Assistant County Attorney for Public Works and Environmental Services (2017-2021).
- Assistant County Attorney (2006-2017).

### **Career Highlights**

- Collaborating with an acoustical engineer, developed an objective, science-based noise ordinance for Seminole County.
- Lead attorney in successfully representing Seminole County in a two-day real estate boundary dispute trial in the Seminole County Circuit Court.
- Prepared Seminole County's ordinance prohibiting simulated gambling devices and assisted in successfully defending it in federal court.
- Prepared brief, presented oral argument, and successfully obtained a per curiam affirmed decision from the Florida Fifth District Court of Appeal affirming the trial court's dismissal of an inverse condemnation case for lack of prosecution.
- Prepared brief and successfully obtained an order from the Florida Fifth District Court of Appeal denying a billboard company's petition for writ of certiorari, which writ would have overturned the Code Enforcement Board's order to remove a billboard.

### **Demonstrated Skills and Accomplishments**

- *Transactions, Legislation and Administrative Matters:* Prepared deeds, easements, purchase agreements, leases, interlocal agreements, resolutions, and other real estate transaction documents. Reviewed and analyzed title searches, appraisals, surveys, environmental reports, and other similar material related to real estate matters. Negotiated and coordinated real estate transactions. Prepared ordinances and administrative code

provisions. Reviewed grant agreements. Prepared legal opinions on various subjects. Analyzed and coordinated responses to public record requests.

- *Litigation:* Represented Seminole County Government as condemning authority in numerous eminent domain cases and parcels, a boundary dispute case that went to trial, bankruptcy cases, and federal litigation over Seminole County's simulated gambling device ordinance.
- *For the Public Works Department:* Provided ongoing legal services to the Public Works Department by providing legal counseling, preparing and reviewing legal documents, and performing other tasks relating to roads, right-of-way, Florida Department of Transportation matters, real estate, stormwater drainage, water quality management, recreational trails, surveying, traffic, and other matters.
- *For the Environmental Services Department:* Provided ongoing legal services to the Environmental Services Department by providing legal counseling, preparing and reviewing legal documents, and performing other tasks relating to water, wastewater, and solid waste matters.
- *For the Purchasing and Contracts Division:* Prepared hundreds of County purchasing contracts for goods, general services, construction services, and professional services. Developed an expertise on the Consultants' Competitive Negotiation Act and liquidated damages in construction contracts. Assisted with extensive revisions to the Purchasing sections of the Seminole County Administrative Code and the County Manager's Policies.
- *For the former Public Safety Department:* Provided ongoing legal services to the former Public Safety Department by providing legal counseling and preparing and reviewing interlocal agreements and other legal documents. Worked with the Probation, Fire/Rescue/EMS, Emergency Management, Addressing, Telecommunications, and Animal Services divisions. Covered Animal Control Board meetings.
- *For the Development Services Department:* Provided legal services to the Development Services Department concerning multiple land use matters, including development review, zoning changes, plats, site plans, homeowners' associations, variances, special exceptions, development orders and comprehensive plan amendments. Covered Planning and Zoning Commission, Board of Adjustment, and Development Review Committee meetings.
- *For the Community Services Department:* Provided legal services to the Community Services Department by providing legal counseling. Prepared and reviewed State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) mortgages, notes, and modification agreements. Prepared and reviewed grant agreements. Prepared agreements and oversaw other legal matters related to the County's medical examiner.

**Wean & Malchow, P.A.**, Orlando, Florida (2005-2006).

- Condominium and homeowners' association law, including litigation, administrative, and transactional matters.
- Analysis and resolution of complex real property, environmental, and land use issues involving condominium and homeowners' associations.
- Drafting of condominium and homeowners' association governing documents, deeds, easements, covenants, contracts, and other documents.
- Facilitated homeowners' and condominium association board and member meetings.

**Rush, Marshall, Jones & Kelly, P.A.**, Orlando, Florida (2003-2005).

- Civil, commercial, mortgage foreclosure, collection, and bankruptcy litigation.
- Condominium and homeowners' association law.
- Served as outside bankruptcy counsel for Seminole County before the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida in a case related to eminent domain.

**Clayton & McCulloh**, Maitland, Florida (1997-2003).

- Condominium and homeowners' association law, including litigation, administrative, and transactional matters.
- Eminent domain litigation on behalf of property owners.
- Lead attorney in a two-day covenant enforcement trial for a homeowners' association.
- Analysis and resolution of complex real property, environmental and land use issues involving condominium and homeowners' associations.
- Drafting of condominium and homeowners' association governing documents, deeds, easements, covenants, contracts, and other documents.
- Facilitated homeowners' and condominium association board and member meetings.

**Kirchman Corporation**, Altamonte Springs, Florida (1996-1997).

- Provided regulatory compliance and other consulting services for the banking industry.
- Researched and prepared updates to a bank regulatory compliance manual.
- Conducted compliance training seminars for bankers and assisted banks in implementing compliance policies and systems.

**Foster & Kelly, P.A.**, Orlando, Florida (1987-1995).

- Civil, commercial, mortgage foreclosure and bankruptcy litigation.
- Advising and assisting small businesses on corporate and other business legal matters.

**Naval Reactors**, Washington, D.C. (1979-1984).

- As a United States Navy Supply Corps Officer, assisted in the administration of government contracts for the design, construction, and support of Navy nuclear-powered submarines and aircraft carriers.
- Honorably discharged from the United States Navy at the rank of Lieutenant.

**SIGNIFICANT PUBLICATIONS**

- *Slot Machines in Florida? Wait a Minute*, 87 FLA. B.J. 8 (Sep./Oct. 2013), *quoted in Gretna Racing, LLC v. Fla. Dept. of Bus. & Prof. Reg.*, 178 So. 3d 15, 18 (Fla. 1st DCA 2015) (slot machines and the Florida Constitution; article was featured on the cover of THE FLORIDA BAR JOURNAL).
- *Personal Property Leasing in Florida: Moving 2A Uniform Treatment*, 18 FLA. ST. U.L. REV. 295 (1991) (survey of Florida case law on personal property leasing in conjunction with Florida's adoption of Article 2A of the Uniform Commercial Code on personal property leasing).

**ATTORNEY OF RECORD IN THESE CASES**

- *Allied Veterans of the World, Inc.: Affiliate 67 v. Seminole County*, 783 F.Supp.2d 1197 (M.D. Fla. 2011) (upheld Seminole County's ordinance prohibiting simulated gambling devices).
- *Cameron v. Seminole County*, 940 So. 2d 440 (Fla. 5th DCA 2006) (obtained a per curiam affirmed decision upholding the trial court's dismissal of an inverse condemnation case for lack of prosecution).
- *Viacom Outdoor, Inc. v. Seminole County*, Case Number: 5D06-386 (Fla. 5th DCA 2006) (obtained order denying billboard company's petition for writ of certiorari to reconstruct a non-conforming billboard).
- *Magnolia Golf Club Holding, LLC v. Seminole County*, Case No. 18-44-AP (Seminole County Circuit Court 2018) (affirmed the Code Enforcement Magistrate decision imposing a fine against Magnolia Golf Club Holding, LLC for violating Seminole County's nuisance ordinance).
- *In re Rivera*, 256 B.R. 828 (Bankr. M.D. Fla. 2000) (treatment of homeowners' association assessments in bankruptcy).
- *In re Brumlik*, 185 B.R. 887 (Bankr. M.D. Fla. 1995) (obtained order granting relief from the bankruptcy automatic stay for cause where debtor filed a subsequent bankruptcy case in violation of a court approved stipulation in a prior bankruptcy case).



## **BAR AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

The Florida Bar (1987-Present).  
City, County and Local Government Law Section (2006-Present).  
Seminar presentation on legal drafting (2018).  
Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section (2016-Present).  
Florida Association of County Attorneys (2011-Present).  
Seminar presentation on legal drafting (2017).  
Chairman, Cell Tower Right-of-Way Task Force (2016).  
Florida Association of County Attorneys Writing Award (2014).  
Seminar presentations on simulated gambling devices (2011 and 2012).  
Seminole County Bar Association (2012-Present).  
Presentation on legal drafting (2018).  
Central Florida Bankruptcy Law Association (1992-1995, 1998-2006).  
Orange County Bar Association (1987-1995, 1998-2006).  
Certified Circuit Court Mediator (2000-Present).

## **COMMUNITY AND LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES**

Member, City of Altamonte Springs Planning Board (2003-2008).  
Vice Chairman (2004-2006).  
Member, City of Altamonte Springs Board of Zoning Appeals (1993-2003).  
Vice Chairman (1997, 1999-2001). Chairman (1997-1999, 2001-2003).  
Member, City of Altamonte Springs Charter Advisory Committee (2005).  
President, The Trails at Country Creek, Inc. (my homeowners' association) (1996-1998).  
Volunteer Analyst, Small Business Development Center, University of Central Florida (1995).

## **FORMAL EDUCATION**

Legal  
University of Florida College of Law, J.D. (1987).  
American Jurisprudence Book Award in Legal Drafting.  
Undergraduate  
Vanderbilt University, B.A. in Economics, *summa cum laude* (1979).  
Phi Beta Kappa.  
Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC).

**DAVID G. SHIELDS**

Email: dgsh@cfl.rr.com

1219 Parkland Court  
Altamonte Springs, Florida 32714  
Cell: (407) 462-2716

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May 4, 2023

Via Web Uplink to: <https://www.srnsearch.com/apply>

Seminole County Board of County Commissioners  
Seminole County Services Building  
1101 East 1st Street  
Sanford, Florida 32771

Re: County Attorney position

Dear Commissioners:

The purpose of this letter is to express my interest in the position of County Attorney for Seminole County. I have been a member of The Florida Bar for 35 years, including the last 17 years as an attorney in the Seminole County Attorney's Office. During my first few years at Seminole County, I concentrated on eminent domain litigation. Subsequently, I have gained extensive experience in many facets of Seminole County Government and I have worked diligently to ensure the County receives the highest quality legal services. Prior to my tenure at Seminole County, I practiced homeowners' and condominium association law, eminent domain, bankruptcy, banking law, small business legal matters, and commercial and civil litigation.

Being an attorney means being competent. I have had 17 years to learn about Seminole County, the law that applies to it, and the County's culture, policies, priorities, and values. I am still learning, but that learning now takes place on a large and powerful foundation. It would be an honor and a privilege to serve as your primary legal advisor and counselor.

Being an attorney means being a communicator. I have a demonstrated record of excellent writing skills. My article, *Slot Machines in Florida? Wait a Minute* was the cover page article in the September/October 2013 issue of THE FLORIDA BAR JOURNAL. I have also taught several courses to attorneys on legal drafting, all of which were well received. My editing pen is always ready.

Being an attorney means being an effective advocate. I have first chair trial and appellate experience, including a successful two-day bench trial in 2010 representing Seminole County on a real estate boundary dispute. This case involved complex real estate and survey issues, but I came to trial fully prepared. I drafted a proposed 17-page final judgment before the trial, presented the expert and other evidence recited in the proposed final judgment's findings of fact at trial, based my closing argument on the proposed final judgment, and submitted the proposed final judgment to the judge for consideration. A few days after the trial, the final judgment was entered as presented.

Being an attorney means being ethical, having integrity, and being trustworthy. This is an area where the absence of notable events is a good thing. Nevertheless, I am committed to these ideals as much as the others.

Being County Attorney means all the above with the addition of leadership and management. Leadership begins with self-leadership. I have gone through periods of heavy workloads that have put my organizational and time management skills to a maximum test, but I got the work done. I have leadership experience as a volunteer, as Chairman of the City of Altamonte Springs Board of Zoning Appeals and as president of my homeowners' association. I have served as legal advisor to and attended many meetings of other homeowners' and condominium association boards. At Seminole County, I have facilitated countless meetings of appointed boards and County staff. I am ready to cover your Board meetings. As leader of the County Attorney's Office, I will create an organizational climate that maximizes performance, is supportive of the needs of personnel, and brings out the best in the attorneys and staff of the County Attorney's Office. I will build on the accomplishments of my predecessors. I will establish a clear sense of purpose and properly equip and prepare all attorneys and staff for success.

Aside from being a lawyer, I am also a Certified Circuit Court Mediator, which provides me with an additional skill set. I have not had many trials because I have successfully resolved many cases through negotiation and mediation.

Prior to becoming a lawyer, I was a United States Navy Supply Corps Officer. In this capacity, I served five years at the main office of Naval Reactors in Washington, D.C., where I worked on contract administration issues related to the design, construction, and support of the Navy's nuclear-powered submarines and aircraft carriers.

With my background and experience, especially my 17 years at Seminole County, I can continue to make a meaningful contribution to Seminole County as County Attorney. Seminole County means a great deal to me as I have been a resident here since 1988. I would sincerely appreciate the opportunity to discuss my credentials further. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



David G. Shields

SEMINOLE COUNTY, FL  
COUNTY ATTORNEY  
CANDIDATE LIST

NAME	MOST RECENT/CURRENT POSITION	ORGANIZATION
1. Annie Blanc	Claim Counsel, Bond & SI, First Party Crime	Travelers, Orlando, FL
2. Aleksandr Boksner	Deputy County Attorney	Sarasota County, FL
3. Joy Carmichael	Assistant County Attorney	Orange County Government, FL
4. Jennifer Cockcroft	Attorney	Lacey Lyons Rezanka, Melbourne, FL
5. Aurelio Garcia	Attorney, Contracts Division	City of Chicago, Department of Aviation, IL
6. Temika Hampton	Managing Attorney	Temika Hampton Law, PLLC, Orlando, FL
7. Katherine Latorre	Senior Assistant County Attorney	Orange County Government, FL
8. Rebecca Lavie	Assistant General Counsel	City of Jacksonville/JEA, FL
9. David Margolis	City Attorney	City of Clearwater, FL
10. Jon Martino	Senior Counsel	City of New York, NY
11. Desmond Morrell	Senior Assistant County Attorney	Seminole County Attorney's Office, FL
12. Diego "Woody" Rodriguez	General Counsel	Central Florida Expressway, FL
13. Michael Rodriguez	City Attorney	City of Apopka, FL
14. David Shields	Deputy County Attorney	Seminole County Attorney's Office, FL